

## **Introduction to Panel 4: Advanced Technologies**

By Mr. Walter D. Ritchie, Vice President, KPFF

Welcome to this fourth and final panel session. I'm Walt Ritchie. I'll be your moderator today. In the three previous sessions we've heard repeated references to the importance of research and design as an integral component of a national maritime program.

We've heard references for the need to develop creative solutions as the inland and coastal navigation elements continue to compete with other modes of transportation to capture a greater percentage of the cargo flow. And we've heard adjectives including effective, efficient, competitive, dynamic, environmental responses, secure, and accountable used to describe these required solutions.

Jeff, I got most of your adjectives in there I think. In this session entitled advanced technologies, we will be exploring innovations in inland and coastal shipping within Europe and the United States. In addition we will be looking at the role of the public and private sectors in affecting research and technical innovation.

Our panelists, Mr. Thomas Menzel, Chief Executive Officer for the Waterway Construction Office in Magdeburg, Germany. Mr. Rolf Marshall, Executive Director of the Washington, D.C. based Coastwide Coalition. And Mr. Henk Schroten, General Manager of the Rijkswaterstaat for south Holland.

Each of these individuals are experts on these topics and highly qualified to present their thoughts to us on these subjects. These topics are particularly timely. Sadly as we have heard today R & D funding is virtually non-existent and with the reduced budgets and competing priorities, relief is not in sight.

